

The Planters' Chronicle.

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

This week a rather larger issue of the Chronicle is published due to the publication of three proceedings of three District Associations, which contain matter of general interest.

The Nilgiri Planters' Association Meeting is concluded from last week's issue. North Mysore and the Shevaroyis contain matter of rather more than local interest.

As was to be expected the proposed Labour Commission is very much to the front, and its Proposal will be read with attention by all the Planting Community. No doubt as soon as all the District Associations have expressed an opinion on the proposal, the Executive Committee, or some member of that body, will publish an authoritative scheme, which will give time for everyone to digest before the Extraordinary General Meeting is held. It is evident from the time of some of the speeches that have appeared that some such authorised scheme is expected by the planting community, as to the working of the proposed Labour Commission. The matter is far too important, in our opinion to be hurried or rushed.

A large amount of correspondence on the Labour Commission and Labour Problem is published, which shows that the matter is receiving general attention, and we consider Mr. Danvers' appeal is very appropriate at this moment, but we hope that he will not carry out his concealed threat to write no more. Mr. Danvers wields a pen with no malice in it, and is always read with interest.

The Planting Expert draws attention to Sectional Meetings and the Resolution passed anent them.

Only second in importance is the publication of the letter from Mr. Noyce about the Pest Act, and the Pest Act itself. It is to be noted that the Government of India are prepared to consider any suggestions from the United Planters' Association.

Last week we published a note saying that a pamphlet was prepared on the Labour Question as discussed at the last Annual Meeting and was ready for distribution on application. The Editor cannot distribute these free, but has to charge 4 annas a copy to cover cost of printing and postage.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.**Nilgiri Planters' Association.***(Continued.)*

"ROADS AND COMMUNICATIONS.—Arsikere-Mangalore Railway.—Although this is no matter of importance to members of this Association, we congratulated our brother planters on what they have obtained after many years of agitation and waiting, and also noted with pleasure the forward policy of Government in railway communications.

"EUROPEAN DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.—We supported a notice drawing attention to the usefulness of this organisation and expressing sympathy with its objects. We hope that those of the N. P. A. who have not joined already will do so without delay. It is certainly to the advantage of every European to support it.

"LONDON SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE.—The advantages of such an institution are apparent and need no explanation. We are of the opinion that as an Association we should do what we can to further its progress.

"LABOUR.—With the proposed establishment of a Labour Commission, Messrs. Waddington and Nicolls withdrew their schemes for the registration of maistris, as such a Commission in itself would include a kind of registration. You will have read in the papers the report of the Committee formed last year to consider the scheme for registration of coolies and the Hon'ble Mr. E. F. Barber's proposals which were:—

1. Abolition of the professional recruiter.
2. Establishment of a Labour Commission.
3. The question of advances or premium paid to secure coolies' services.

The meeting was very decided about the abolition of the professional recruiter. A resolution was carried asking the Government of Madras to suppress the professional recruiter. It was defined in the resolution as follows:—

"The professional recruiter is an individual who collects coolies and sells them at any centre, and afterwards ceases to have any further interest in their well-being, future, or whereabouts, as distinguished from the authorised Kangany or Maistry."

LABOUR COMMISSION.—You all now have received copies of the deliberations of the Committee appointed at the meeting to go fully into the question of the establishment of a Labour Commission, to formulate working details and to report upon the whole question. We heartily supported the proposed Commission and hope that the N. P. A. will fully endorse our action by collectively and individually agreeing to support the scheme. The reasons for the establishment of such a Commission and the benefits to be accrued from it have been so fully put before you by the Committee that it leaves us little to add. Without adequate support the scheme cannot be the success it ought to be, and indeed must be, if you intend making any efforts to secure to yourselves an assured supply of labour in the future.

On the upper plateau of the Nilgiris you have a certain amount of local labour, but with new openings on all sides of you, that supply will be inadequate, even for those now favourably situated estates. Rates are rising, may have risen 25 per cent. in many parts, and will rise more with the increased demand. To successfully combat this you must have imported labour and

you must help your maistries to obtain, and having obtained, to keep their coolies, as from instances recently quoted you seem to be at the mercy of any unscrupulous recruiter. A Labour-Commission would practically eliminate such cases and the cost of same would be saved over and over again by the maistries' advances being made an almost safe investment instead of the gamble it is now, and by helping you to engage labour for your requirements, would tend to check the rise in rates. Moreover, your maistries would be helped to obtain good able coolies. The quantity and quality of work done would alone repay the cost, as it is, I think, generally admitted that the class of cooly you now get is far inferior to what you had a few years ago and work suffers in consequence. We ask you to regard the cost of working the scheme as an insurance policy. It will be the best policy you have ever taken out. The premium, Rs.2 per acre, cannot be considered heavy, even if it remained at that figure; but if the scheme gets the support it deserves to get, not only from members of association, but from those who from one reason or another are not now members of any association, the necessary amount required for the annual working of the scheme will become considerably less. The total acreage on the books of the U. P. A. S. I. is 140,000 acres. The total estimated expenditure of the scheme is, inclusive of Rs.30,000 initial expenditure Rs.1,30,000. The annual cost you will more than save by having an ample supply of labour to pick your leaf when ready, which means quality as well as quantity and in a like way be able to pick your coffee at the right stage, not green or over-ripe, as must occur if labour is short. At the meeting members representing 30,000 acres promised to support the scheme.

ADVANCES.—A resolution was passed urging as far as possible the limitation of advances.

ENTICEMENT OF LABOUR.—An instance which was brought to our notice by a member of the Association was put before the the meeting and a resolution was passed which we hope will meet the case.

NON-SERVICE OF WARRANTS.—We seconded the Wynaad resolution which was carried unanimously.

PEST ACT.—We agreed to this on the understanding that if it is introduced Government sholas, etc., should be included. It was recommended that before any general Pest Act became law, its provisions should be submitted to the U. P. A. S. I. for consideration and report.

COFFEE ADULTERATION.—We supported Mr. Mahon's proposal which was the same as carried last year.

TEA.—RAIL-FREIGHT ON TEA SEED.—We brought this matter forward and carried a resolution that the U. P. A. S. I. approach the Indian Tea Association asking them to use their influence to obtain concessions in the rates of freight on tea seed from all railways in India.

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT.—You will be glad to know that the resolution was passed at our last meeting here on July 16th, was adopted and carried unanimously, and so we hope to have Mr. Anstead's valuable services for another period.

MYCOLOGIST.—We made the following proposal:—

"That this Association considers that the services of a mycologist under the direct control of the U. P. A. S. I. is necessary; that there is a need for such an appointment is apparent from the subjoined list of diseases on which investigation is required, and that the Honble Mr. E. F. Barber be asked to urge the matter on Government."

We are sure you will agree that such an appointment would be most useful to you and is really a necessity.

CINCHONA.—We supported the Anamalai resolution, being in accordance with our past policy.

THE LABOUR COMMISSION.—The Hon'ble Mr. E. F. Barber, in introducing this subject, spoke as follows:—

"I do not wish to take up the time of the meeting, but I should like to say a few words on the proposed Labour Commission. We have put the question of labour in the forefront of our planting difficulties for many years, for 20 years in fact, and of recent years the problem has become more pressing. Several proposals have been made to cure the difficulty and though these proposals have not met with general acceptance, they have served a purpose and we should thank those gentlemen who have spent their time and taken trouble in elaborating them. The first and perhaps the best known and most discussed was Mr. Brock's, then there was Mr. Marden's, while this year both Mr. Nicolls and Mr. Waddington brought forward proposals. At the last meeting in Bangalore a suggestion was made and a scheme formulated and this is before us to-day for discussion. There are no doubt many points that can be raised, but we may be sure that those points were raised and discussed by the Committee that formulated the scheme and we should remember, when discussing it, that this Committee represented nearly every planting district and that the scheme, as presented to you now, was adopted unanimously by the Delegates at Bangalore.

Well, the scheme is here for your consideration, the basis of it is self-help, and this, where it has been a question of putting our hands in our pockets, has not been readily forthcoming in the past. It is for us to decide as individuals whether we will support the scheme or not; we have not to come to a decision for the Association as a whole. If we think we shall benefit by it, from a business point of view, we should support it, if not, as business men, we should leave it alone. We shall criticize the scheme, but I do not think that the criticism should be comparative; if we see that we shall benefit by it we ought not to compare our benefit with another's or grudge any one deriving more benefit from it than we do ourselves.

I have had letters from planters objecting to the rate of Rs.2 per acre. I think this has been misunderstood. The Committee distinctly say that a little more than 1 rupee per acre would be sufficient from the whole acreage represented by the U. P. A. S. I. It is certain that some interests will not support the scheme but it is equally certain that some interests, not now represented on the U. P. A. S. I. will join in, so there is some hope that sufficient support may be forthcoming to reduce the cost to nearer one rupee than two rupees per acre. The two rupees asked for may be looked up on as a guarantee, for it is certain that so much will not be asked for if it is not wanted.

This scheme will not be a panacea for all our labour troubles, but it may enable us to hold the labour we have got and even to get back some we have lost. Also it may help us to get more coolies into currency by tapping new recruiting districts, but it is certain that it will give us a position as bidders in the labour market instead of being left outside the ring and forced to take what our competitors have rejected."

Mr. Nicolls then read a letter with reference to the work of the Ceylon Commission in the West Coast.

Mr. Dandison spoke as follows :—

' Since my return from Bangalore I have heard several views expressed upon the proposed Labour Commission.

They have all been more or less in favor of it, but doubt has been expressed as to what benefit estates which work almost entirely with local labour will gain.

Let us look at the Labour question generally and compare our position now to what it was a few years ago.

Speaking on labour, then, a well known member of this Association stated that he considered a man who could not replace runaway coolies in say three months, was not worth much. Could any of us replace a lot of bolters within three months now? I doubt it, except by raising rates or crimping, as on every side one hears complaints of shortage of labour.

What does this show? What else can it prove but that times have changed? While other countries have organised commissions, labour recruiting agencies, etc., in the very heart of our Labour district, we have done nothing, and it is no exaggeration to say that in a few years' time we shall be in a far worse condition than we are now unless, before it is too late, we do what we ought to have done years ago and unite to protect ourselves.

Regarding those estates which employ imported labour wholly, the advantages of the commission are apparent and there is no need to repeat these now as you have no doubt read the papers and also the pamphlet issued, but with regard to estates favourably situated as regards Local Labour there arises a difficult question, as they would naturally object to paying on an acreage basis for the very few tamil or canarese coolies that they require.

Quite right *at present*, but let him look ahead. Are their "Locals" going to remain and work at present rates of pay if there was a general rise of pay elsewhere, as there will be soon, unless we protect ourselves?

No, certainly not, a few people will remain to look after their fields, but the young, able-bodied men and women will demand higher pay, and if refused, will go where they can get it, and migrate to another village, perhaps near estates that pay higher rates.

Now this is a point I want to make a strong one, that these estates will gain by supporting the scheme, directly as regards the few low country coolies they employ, and indirectly to a far greater degree, as with a general supply of Labour assured there will be no temptation for their "Locals" to leave their present villages; thus by helping others to obtain coolies, they will help themselves to retain their present supply.

Whether they should pay the same amount as others, whether it should be on an acreage or a "per coolie" basis is a point to be discussed to-day, but I appeal to them to join in under any circumstances and to remember that without general support the scheme cannot be the success we want to make it.

There are many old coffee estates being planted up with tea now. Where is the extra Labour to come from to cultivate these in the future? Tea cannot be run on coffee lines. More Labour per acre is required as flush must be picked when ready and if not picked then, means it is not only lost, but more coolies are required to "break back" or else an earlier pruning is necessary; in either case a loss. It cannot be gleaned from the ground like coffee which will remain on the trees for weeks very often before dropping.

"We are nearing a crisis, but if we are prepared we shall pull through as we naturally have an enormous advantage over our competitors and it only needs co-operation on our part.

It is impossible to please everyone, as it is impossible to arrange equal benefits to all, but let us do our best to settle on some scheme that will be as fair as we can make it to all of us under our varying conditions.

The foundations have been laid and it remains for us to do our part in the building of the edifice. The structure can be adapted, I trust, to suit as far as possible requirements but remember that no scheme can be successful unless built on the strong foundation of Unity and this was solidly laid in Bangalore.

In conclusion, I would like to say that it would help matters along if any people who have objections to any proposals made would voice them now, as it is only by eliminating bad material that we shall be able to put our house in order."

Mr. Dandison moved the following resolution which had been adopted at a well-attended meeting of the Wynad Planters' Association.

"That this Meeting is unanimous in considering that the Institution of a Labour Commission for South India is an urgent necessity, and that the members present agree to represent the position to their proprietors, recommending them to allow the estates they are in charge of to join the scheme if it is found that the promises of support justify the establishment of a Commission on the lines suggested in the report of the Committee appointed by the United Planters' Association of Southern India."

Mr. Harding Pascoe, in seconding Mr. Dandison, said that if a few years ago he had been told that Badaga labour would be leaving the district, he would have laughed. For the last several years he had been much about and had found Badagas working a hundred and fifty miles away and Badaga women working on rubber estates at practically sea level. This rather tended to show that Badaga labour was drifting away. Then again it was argued that the Malayalee would not go away, but now it was found that the Malayalee cooly was going to both Ceylon and the Straits. He said that a commission would be of great assistance and would give moral support to Maistries in securing coolies in the villages. He gave an instance where his maistry brought him his labour a month earlier than the required. On being questioned the maistry told him that if he had not secured the men then he would not have been able to bring the coolies at all. He said that this maistry will sooner or later consider whether it is good enough to go on, on these conditions, and that the result will be that if something is not done they will be deprived of the whole of their labour.

Mr. Barber at this stage quoted from the Ceylon Handbook certain figures which were very significant as regards the work done by the Ceylon Commission.

Mr. Sydenham Clarke then rose to propose an amendment. He said that he thought that instead of fixing Rs.2 per acre it would be better to fix the rate per imported cooly. He estimated that a coffee planter required half a cooly per acre and the tea planter one cooly per acre and therefore it would be more equitable if a poll tax were introduced, rather than on an acreage basis. Considerable discussion followed. Mr. Cockburn alluded to the rate of 30 cents per acre prevailing in Ceylon and thought that when a start had been made the rate would come down much lower and probably end up down to the Ceylon rate. Other speakers pointed out that definite

guarantees had now come forward to something like Rs.80,000 and if another basis of calculation were to be adopted, the Association would have to start afresh and procure new guarantees. It was pointed out that it was necessary to have a fixed basis and procure new guarantees. It was pointed out that it was necessary to have a fixed basis and Mr. Golden remarked that a Re.1 acreage basis with a supplemental poll tax might work better.

Mr. Barber then pointed out that the whole of the money required worked out to but half per cent of the gross value of planters' produce exported from the Madras Presidency, which certainly could not be considered high and appealed to members not to consign the scheme again to the melting pot.

Mr. Deane said he was certain that coffee areas, with the present state of bug, could not stand the Rs.2 per acre basis.

Mr. Cockburn remarked that his estate was between that of Mr. Deane and Mr. Clarke and it was high time that coffee, which was so badly bitten with bug, should be replaced with tea.

A letter was next read from Mr. Nicholson, in which he stated that if the acreage rate was fixed at 1 Re. he would advise his estates joining. It was pointed out that here also a misunderstanding prevailed as to Rs.2 being the annual rate.

Mr. Clarke at this stage withdrew his amendment on the understanding that Rs.2 was not to be the annual payment per acre but that it was merely a starting guarantee.

Mr. Dandison's resolution was then put to the vote and carried by 15 for and 2 against. Various suggestions for the consideration of the Executive Committee were then made, one of which was that members who came in later should not be allowed to get in cheaply, since they had not participated in the initial expenses. A proposal was also made by Mr. Rogers, as regards the limiting of advances. This, members thought, was a matter to be dealt by local Associations and the matter was dropped.

In conclusion, members were asked to let the Executive Committee have, as early as possible, the acreage of their estates.

The Hon'ble Mr. E. F. Barber proposed Mr. D. Elkington as a member of the Association, who was duly elected.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair and to the Collector for the use of the room.

PAPERS ON THE TABLE—

- Planting Gazette, August 1913.
- Year Book of Ceylon Planters' Association.
- Catalogue of "Monkey Jacks."
- Book on Rubber in S. India.
- Memoirs of Dept. of Agriculture Vol. 1 No. 2.
- Do Vol. III, No. 2.
- Do Vol. VI No. 2.
- Agricultural Journal of India, July 1913.
- Dept. of Agriculture, Madras, Vol. III, bulletin, No. 66.
- G. O. No. 214 dated 18-7-13. Report on Government Botanical Gardens and Parks.
- G. O. No. 1622, dated 11-8-13 on the working of the Planters' Labour Act I of 1903.

E. F. BARBER, *Chairman.*

J. S. NICOLLS, *Hon'y. Secretary*

North Mysore Planters' Association.

Annual General Meeting held at Balehonnur, on September 26th, 1913.

PRESENT.—Messrs. E. C. Bolton, C. Danvers, F. W. Hight, E. H. Young, C. P. Reed, R. G. Foster, S. L. Mathias, A. F. Everett, Major Ricketts, T. Hunt (President), W. H. Reed (Honorary Secretary). *By Proxy:* E. W. Fowke, J. Pais, E. Lund, D. Mathias. *Visitors:* Captain Ricketts, Mr. I. Saldanha.

Honorary Secretary's Report & Accounts.—Gentlemen,—In laying before you the Accounts for the past year I have to remark that since the last Annual General Meeting no new Estates have joined. There are now 54 Estates on the Kolls, representing 10,460 acres. Subscriptions amounting to Rs.290-8-0 for five Estates are still due. The Income for the past year amounts to Rs.4,939-11-0. Against this there is an Expenditure of Rs.4,194-3-7 leaving a surplus balance of Rs.741-7-5 on the year's working.

The funds at the credit of the Association amount to a floating balance of Rs.2,913-9-0 and Rs.4,000 on deposit with the National Bank.

Benefvolent Fund.—I have remitted Rs.130 to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I. There is still a balance of Rs.60 due by subscribers.

I beg to submit my resignation of the Honorary Secretaryship.

President's Address.—Gentlemen,—I will not detain you long. I only propose to tell you about a few matters that have engaged the attention of the Association during the past few months. Delegates from the three Associations interviewed the Dewan about the proposed Labour Act, and some small modifications were suggested.

A meeting of the Council of Mysore Planters' Associations was held in Bangalore in August, at which the Scientific Officer and the Mysore Assistant were present. Disappointment was expressed by the Members at the progress made in Agricultural experiments, etc., especially the experiments with regard to "Black Rot."

I will address you later on on the Labour Commission scheme.

I have to thank you for having done me the honour of electing me as your President for the past year, and now beg to tender my resignation.

Income Tax.—This was fully discussed, and it was decided "That the imposition of an Income Tax as suggested and passed at the Economic Conference, does not meet with the approval of this Association and the Dussarah Delegate be instructed to oppose the same."

Labour Commission.—After a long discussion and after the President had explained the method of working of a Labour Commission, the following Resolution was put from the Chair:—

(1) "That this Association is in favour of supporting the Labour Commission scheme, but that it is not only advisable but absolutely necessary that further information as regards working details be circulated as speedily as possible, for the benefit of Members (who have not attended meetings) and non-members who are quite in the dark as to the methods of working a Labour Commission."

(2) The following Amendment was proposed by Mr. E. C. Bolton and seconded by Mr. C. P. Reed:—

"That in view of the present depressed state of the Coffee Market and the eight anna subscription at present paid by the members, also the proposed large increase in coolies pay, this Association does not see its way to support the Labour Commission on the very expensive lines drawn up by the Committee appointed by the U. P. A."

The above Amendment was put to the Meeting and lost.

The following Amendment was proposed by Mr. Lund and seconded by Mr. Bonner: "Considering the importance of the Labour question, this Association requires more information as to the benefit Mysore would derive from the proposed Labour Commission, and it is resolved that a Committee be appointed to enquire into the desirability of supporting the Scheme and report to an Extraordinary Meeting of the Association to be held at an early date."

This Amendment was put to the Meeting and lost.

The original Resolution was then put and carried by a large majority.

Labour Question.—This was very fully discussed and a petition signed by 58 estate labour suppliers, asking for an increase of pay to coolies was read. It was decided that the matter of raising coolies' pay immediately be left over until the next Quarterly Meeting in December next, so as to enable members to fully consider the matter.

Roads and Communications.—A petition signed by many land-owners and ryots resident in the Mudigere and Koppa Taluks, referring to the impassable state of the Magoondi-Kalasa and the Balehole-Basicatty Roads, was read.

The Association complained about the state of these roads at the meeting held in December last, and the subject was represented to Government on January 6th. Their reply dated 11st January says that the matter will be referred to the Chief Engineer and President of the Kador District Board.

It was decided that the petition be forwarded to the proper authorities, and that it is strongly supported by the Association.

Central Manure Works.—A letter from the Deputy Commissioner, Hassan District, asking if planters were likely to support Manure Works started in Hassan. **Reply:** This Association thinks it advisable to point out that to obtain support from European planters it would be necessary to:

- (1) Supply Manures under a guarantee as to purity.
- (2) The Works would have to be sure of a steady and certain supply.

Provided that the above conditions are fulfilled and prices such as can favourably compete with imported manures, we think the scheme would meet with considerable support from planters.

Election of Office Bearers.—This resulted in the election of Mr. T. Hunt, President and Mr. W. H. Read, Honorary Secretary.

Shevaroy Planters' Association.

Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of the Shevaroy Planters' Association held at the Victoria Rooms, Yercaud, on 30th September, 1913.

PRESENT—J. P. Bedford, Esq., I. C. S. Messrs. S. Campbell, B. Cayley, E. Dickins, H. Dickins, H. Dyer, R. A. Gilby, R. Gompertz, Paul Goubieat, S. M. Hight, A. B. Kundaawamy, C. G. Lechler, W. J. Lechler, J. C. Large, C. Rahm, W. Rahm, Revd. Father Roehet, B. N. Short, C. K. Short, F. D. Short, L. B. Short, E. W. Short, E. Sans, G. Turner, H. Whittle, Pringle Waldeck and Ch. Dickins (Honorary Secretary). Mrs. F. Campbell by her proxy Mr. Gilby, Mr. D. S. Robinson by his proxy Mr. C. Rahm, and Mr. F. Pegge by his proxy Mr. C. Dickins.

(1) The Notice calling the Meeting was taken as read.

(2) *The Late Mr. W. W. Hight.*—The Chairman on opening the meeting said he felt it his sad duty to refer to the loss the Association had sustained by the sudden and unexpected death of Mr. William Hight, who was well known in the community. He was a sportsman and a good fellow and was for many years a member of the Association. He felt sure the late Mr. W. Hight's death would be felt by all and moved the following resolution which was seconded by Mr. J. C. Large and carried unanimously.

"That this Association write to Mrs. Hight expressing its deepest sympathy with her in her sad loss and also to his brother Mr. S. M. Hight."

The Labour Commission Scheme.—After a long debate on the subject the following proposal was made by Mr. G. Turner and seconded by Mr. C. Rahm:

"That in the opinion of this meeting the institution of a Labour Commission for S. India on the lines suggested in the report of the Committee appointed by the U. P. A. S. I. is a most desirable and urgent measure and that it agrees to strongly support the scheme."

Result of Voting.—24 for, Against 3 *vis.*, Messrs. J. C. Large, A. B. Kundaawamy, F. Pegge, Messrs. Bedford, Sans, and Waddeck did not vote.

Mr. E. Large wrote in stating that he had referred the matter to his proprietor at Home and anticipated a reply in the affirmative.

(3) *Delegate's Report.*—Mr. Turner read his report, emphasising the fact that every member of the Association should provide himself with a copy of the U. P. A. S. I. Proceedings.

Proposed by Mr. C. G. Lechler and seconded by Mr. B. Cayley and carried unanimously: "That Mr. Turner be thanked for representing this Association at the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting, and for his interesting report—also that the same be printed."

(4) *Honorary Secretary's Report.*—The Honorary Secretary read his Annual Report and Statement of Accounts. The Accounts were examined by Messrs. B. Short and C. Rahm and found correct.

Proposed by Mr. B. Short and seconded by Mr. G. Turner and carried unanimously: "That the Honorary Secretary be thanked for his report and

that the same be printed together with statement of Accounts for distribution amongst the members."

(5) *Repairing of Machinery, &c.*—Read letter dated 7-9-1913 from Mr. A. C. Nicholson with reference to repairing of machinery, pulpers, &c., executed on the Hawthorn Estate from 1st October.

(6) *Small Consignments of Goods—Delivery of, to residents on the Shevaroy Hills.*—Resolved: "That the Honorary Secretary be requested to thank the General Traffic Manager, S. I. R., for his letter G. O. 401/15 dated 16th September, 1913."

(7) *Re-Correspondence of 16-4-1913 published in P. C. of that week.*—Read letter No 200 dated 18-9-1913 addressed to this Association from Mr. D. Daly.

Resolved: "That the Honorary Secretary be requested to inform Mr. Daly that the Association would write to the Editor, *Planters' Chronicle*, asking him if he will publish all Mr. Daly's correspondence addressed to the Association dating from 16th May 1913 if so, to do so."

(8) *Alteration of rule 9 of the S. P. A.*—Mr. Bedford moved the following motion, which was seconded by Mr. R. A. Gilby and carried unanimously: "That Committee meetings be held every quarter between each quarterly meeting, in substitution for rule 9."

(9) *Election of Office Bearers:* The following Committee was elected for the coming year:—

Messrs. F. D. Short,
S. M. Hight,
C. Rahm,
C. G. Lechler,
W. Rahm,
G. Turner,

Rev'd. Father Rochet,

and Mr. C. Dickens was unanimously elected Honorary Secretary.

(10) *Vote of Thanks.*—A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the meeting.

CHAS. DICKINS,

Hony. Secy., S. P. A.

Kanan Devan Planters' Association.

At the Extraordinary General Meeting of the above Association held on September 27th, 1913, the following Resolution was unanimously agreed to:—

"That this Association is in favour of any scheme that will tend to reduce rates of advances and reduce and regulate competition for coolies in South India, but is not in a position to decide for or against proposed S. I. Labour Commission, and that therefore the scheme be referred to all Proprietors of Estates in the District."

CORRESPONDENCE.

Government of India,
Department of Revenue and Agriculture,
(Agri.)

From

Simla, the 30th September 1913.

F. Noyce, Esq., I. C. S.,

Under-Secretary to the Government of India,

To

The Secretary,

United Planters' Association of Southern India.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter No. 15 dated the 17th September, 1913, with which you forwarded a copy of Resolution carried at the Annual Meeting of the United Planters' Association of Southern India, advocating in view of the presence of Green Bug in Coffee Estates in Southern India, the introduction of some form of internal pest Act in order to strengthen the hands of the scientific staff employed in stamping out the pest. The resolution further suggests that before any general Pest Act becomes law, its provisions should be submitted to the United Planters' Association for consideration and report.

2. With reference to the latter portion of the resolution, I am to say that a copy of the Bill to prevent the introduction into British India of any insect, Fungus or other pest which is or may be destructive to crops, and of the statement of Objects and Reasons, has, it is understood, been forwarded to you by the Secretary to the Government of India in the Legislative Department and that Government of India will be pleased to consider any suggestions which the United Planters' Association may wish to offer. It is requested that any communication in regard to the Bill may be addressed to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Legislative Department.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

F. NOYCE,

Under-Secretary.

Meppadi, September 30th, 1913.

The Editor,

The Planters' Chronicle.

Bangalore.

The Labour Problem.

Dear Sir,—I have read Mr. Mead's very able letter with much interest. I regret the view he takes of the proposed Labour Commission, more especially as what he says on other connected subjects appears so very sound.

Mr. Mead's statement of some of the causes of our present troubles is perfectly correct; but in his enumeration I think that he has left out one large factor, and that is the lack of combination among planters on this all-important matter that has hitherto existed. The proposal to establish a

Labour Commission for the whole of South India is an attempt to remedy this defect. The Delegates at this year's U. P. A. S. I. Meeting were not men likely to follow a blind lead. Many were new comers, influential men in their Districts who were there to demand a remedy for their labour troubles which were becoming intolerable.

In my opening address I specially asked for criticism of any scheme that might be put forward, and even if Mr. Mead's criticism were destructive it is much preferable to what I have called the "let the—fool talk attitude" which might have allowed his Association to promise support to the Commission and then to find that half its acreage stood out. The old method of calling everyone who differs from the Chairman and the Planting Member a putrefying idiot silences criticism, multiplies votes against you, and leaves you drivelling about "ingratitude" for the rest of your time. I think that when Mr. Mead sees his letter in print it may occur to him that his arguments sometimes destroy one another. At any rate I hope he will come to the December Meeting ready to thrash the matter out.

Is Mr. Mead pleased with the present Labour position? Evidently not, for he admits the necessity of some action, and of the establishment of District Labour Commissions. This would, I think, be a mistake. The Assistant Commissioners stationed, as it is proposed they shall be, in the various recruiting Districts under the control of the Commissioner and the U. P. A. S. I., will work on a system and for a common object. Whereas under Mr. Mead's scheme there might be 3 or 4 men in a small space competing with one another as well as with their overseas rivals and the evil would only be intensified. The Commission will certainly not be able to do away with competition, but one of its duties will be to regulate it.

There is another consideration that should not be lost sight of. The District Commissions would have no status comparable to that of a combined one, or that of the Ceylon Commission.

I venture to say that Mr. Mead is wrong in stating that recruiting for Districts is confined to Zones. It may have been so a few years ago. But the increased competition aided no doubt by the constant shifting of Superintendents to which he alludes has brought about a complete change. South Canara people who used to work exclusively in Mysore now go to Malabar, Cochin and Travancore as well as Wynaad. Gangs of Badugas come to Wynaad. The Canarese who used to work here and in the Nilgiris are going to the Anamalais.

Any Wynaad Estate used to be able to count on getting a fair number of Coimbatore coolies who came in towards the end of July. That source of supply has completely dried up. The coolies seem to have been drawn away to Ceylon, the Straits, Cochin and the Anamalais. In other Districts I believe a similar mix up has occurred.

As for what Mr. Mead says about his preference for sending the planter to do his own recruiting, he is the Manager of a large Company with a number of European Assistants, and has every right to his own opinion. One does not want to advertise or magnify one's own troubles. But the Tea Planter short of coolies, struggling to keep up with his flush, driving his pluckers out 7 days a week and with his factory working 16 hours or more in the 24, simply cannot leave the Estate to go and hunt up coolies and Malastries in their villages.

I cannot see what reason Mr. Mead has for thinking that there is a near prospect of our labour difficulties disappearing. Tea has been opened largely, and rubber enormously, in the last few years. Boom or no boom, the tea will have to be plucked and the rubber tapped. If rubber prices remain as they are, or go lower, expenses will have to be cut down and coolies worked harder. That will lead to more trouble. If prices improve considerably there will be more opening. It seems to me that this is no time to let matters slide.

If any improvement can be effected in the Labour Commission scheme as published, the Executive Committee will welcome suggestions, and as I have said, we hope that Mr. Mead will come to Bangalore and help us with his advice.

Meanwhile, there is the U. P. A. S. I. scheme. Mr. Mead and I know all the men who drew it up. For my part I have a great respect for their opinions. The cost has been said to be too great. But even for the first year, which will be the most expensive, four pounds of coffee or "common" tea, or one pound of rubber per acre will pay for it. It may mean the saving of the Planting Industry. If merely as a sporting proposal we ask Mr. Mead and other doubters to give it a trial.

Yours faithfully,

C. E. ABBOTT.

5th October, 1913.

The EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle.

Bangalore.

Labour Commission.

Sir,—While disagreeing in toto with the criticisms of the proposed Labour Commission contained in Mr. Mead's letter of the 22nd ulto., his idea of District Commissions is particularly unfortunate. The chief object of a Commissioner will be to organise and hold things together, if necessary to arbitrate, and if Mr. Mead is laughing now at the "constant quarrels and complaints that one district is getting more for its money than another" which he foresees as the result of united Labour Commission, he will probably go into hysterics if he thinks over the effects of the constant quarrels and complaints, &c., which would be the inevitable result of a District Commission scheme, such as he suggests.

To Mr. Mead's objection to a Commissioner, and incidentally to the Labour Commission scheme, on the ground of expense, I should like to ask him if he knows, or has made enquiries, what it costs to run any sort of private commission. Rs.2 an acre, and that probably for the first year only, may seem a lot of money, but it is cheap compared with the cost of a private commission, and I venture to think it will be considerably cheaper and quite as effective as a District Commission scheme such as he favours. Wynaad Estates employ Canarese, South Canara coolies, Coimbatore and Erode Tamils and Malabar Malayams. Does Mr. Mead think that a Commission run by the District of Wynaad, unless it was on as large a scale as the U. P. A. S. I. Commission scheme proposes to be, could possibly keep in touch with, and work satisfactorily over, such a large area, and at a less cost per acre to the estates joining.

I take it that amongst ourselves what we want to eliminate as far as possible is "Competition." We have quite enough to compete against in the Straits and Ceylon, and it seems to me that the scheme of independent District Commissions, such as Mr. Mead suggests, would create competition. I do not think the proposed Labour Commission Scheme would in any way hinder a district, while has recruited almost wholly from one centre in the past, from doing so in the future, and I think that what Mr. Mead has lost sight of is, that this proposed Labour Commission Scheme will not be a recruiting agency. It will be a Banking, Forwarding and Helping Agency, in fact almost everything except a recruiting agency.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

W. EVERETT BOWNASS.

The Labour Problem.

The EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle,

Bangalore.

Sir,—I am tired of seeing my name in the *Chronicle* and may I doubtless say "What! Danvers again?" but I crave your and their indulgence once more, as I should like to make an appeal to my brother planters.

First, let me welcome Mr. Mead, who sent a racy letter last week; and who would have thought that the Rose of Raciness could rear its head in the thorny wilderness of the Labour Problem? It was also a very characteristic letter, and made me feel pleasantly as if I had met Mr. Mead again. I would like to follow him through his paras, as that will lead up to my appeal.

Legislation.—Mr. Mead is unquestionably right in his view of this, and in his conclusion that no Act can be framed which is of any use to the planter; only I would substitute "satisfactory"—for "any." We must have legislation for the "excrescences"—the dishonesties attached to the business of labour supplying. As to Act I, with extradition, I am indeed an unwilling convert; the sort of convert the Inquisition used to make with racks and boiling oil. Extradition is necessary, I think (unless the Labour Commission goes through) for though those in the enjoyment of it are not immune from bad debts, are they prepared to say that the bad debts would not increase if extradition were withdrawn? Ever since Act I came on the scene I have maintained that 50% of its value would be dissipated by Police short-comings, while all of its objectionable features would remain, and it would tend to lessen, more and more, our personal influence with our labour. It is the spirit of 1913 dealing with undeveloped creatures of the Heathen Age; it is a comparison of unlike kinds; and it is a stone when we asked for bread. But it may bring extradition, and if this is not all that some fancies paint, it will act as some sort of check on unmuzzled roguery.

Our views are all coloured by local circumstances, and I have not heard of any village tribunal in our recruiting grounds which settles anything as between mastery and cooly; these disputes are frequently brought to the Estate Manager whose time is taken up by attempting to unravel complex tissues of lies.

Mr. Richardson's was "truly an awful confession," but he recognised things as they are and wished for reasonable safe-guard; Mr. Mead tells us what we ought to be. But even supposing that perfection existed among planters, we know it does not among recruiters; the planter is often presented with coolies supposed to be legitimately recruited but who have been

crimped from another maistry, and he knows no more than his man tells him. In our own district we settle these matters by enquiring face to face—but how is this to be done when the coolies have gone beyond the boundary? As temptations increase and facilities for avoiding performance of contract also increase, surely it is necessary to take some measure or other. The best we can, though the balance of profit may be small. But we might do without Act I, as I hope to show.

Shortage of Labour and its Causes.—What Mr. Mead says under this head is very sound—only I am not sure that there *never* has been any crimping; and as to the F. M. S. I heard that they intended from 1st October not to reduce pay but to increase tasks 25%. I am sure I hope that this is true, and the Government of Madras may enquire or not as it likes. In any case it counts for us.

Proposed Labour Commission.—This in my opinion is the soundest scheme that the planters of S. India have ever had, and I tender by unstinted congratulations to the originators and framers of it whether it carries through or whether it fails from want of support. It is not yet perfect, no doubt; but perfection, like confidence, is a plant of slow growth, and changes can be made as time and experience suggest. Again I will follow Mr. Mead.

1. I am mostly with him here. It is to the sub-divisions that we must look for our greatest help and I would like to see the Agents of those sub-divisions paid on a more liberal scale, while the central agent be correspondingly reduced. But I think it advisable to have a central head as it will tend to greater cohesion and co-operation between the sub-divisions, which to my mind is the essence of the scheme. Disconnected agencies may develop jealousies or at least rivalries, and as the chief value of the agency to us in Mysore will be not the recruiting of labour but the recovery of such has bolted to outside our own sphere of influence, it is to us *entirely necessary* that there should be homogeneity and co-operation in the Labour Commission spheres: without this the Commission will lose value, and I doubt if it would be extensively supported.

3. 4, 5 & 6 are not very important points for discussion here. It will take the Commission all its time if it is going to see that every maistry uses his advances for legitimate purposes—but no doubt some good will accrue, and the intentions are excellent.

7. This will be of value to a good many, for circumstances vary.

8. Mr. Mead evidently agrees with this, a very strong point in the scheme.

9. Each agency can confine itself to the attractions of its own district or districts, and can probably advertise better than an Association.

10. Some may be able to go when and where they like, but many cannot and I think this clause sound.

11. Same applies.

12. I don't want to laugh at all! Mr. Mead foresees the human element stepping in and consequent quarrels and complaints. Human nature is so, and what can a poor Labour Commissioner do to alter it? But we can *try* to promote harmony and good-will, even if some insist on striking discordant notes. If a man in Travancore gives up my bolted coolies, I shall be very willing to give up his; and the agency will be a powerful factor in aiding people to keep to the narrow path of honesty and straight dealing. On this the whole thing depends.

13. I echo Mr. Mead's "How? you cannot do away with competition." It is a common thing with us for the richer suppliers to use their own money as well as the Estate advance, and so out-bid poorer suppliers. Competition all along the line!

14. I have lost no money to speak of for 15 years, but am horribly afraid of what the future holds without this Labour Commission.

Now, the Labour Committee has unfortunately not published its idea of how the scheme will be worked, and many are in doubt as to whether it will be to their advantage to join. We understand that maistries will be advanced, through the agency and labour more or less kept on the rails; but we have had no official information on what to us is the great idea. We have been un-officially told that if labour goes to the wrong place it will be recovered by the Commission and set on its proper path; if a maistry and his gang after taking advances from Travancore go to Wynad, the Superintendent of the harbouring Estate will be requested to send them back—and he will do so. If they go to their village, the agent will get them back, or hurry them.

This is what appeals to me!

Let us all join the Labour Commission—let us all sign an agreement to return coolies that we have no right to—and Act I and other legislation may be left alone. The agent can ascertain, or be informed, where coolies have gone—most maistries know where their coolies have bolted to. It will stop the taking of advances by maistries in two places—it will keep the cooly from being claimed (as he is in South Canara) by 3 or 4 maistries—it will keep us all, employers, recruiters, and coolies, in the "narrow path of honesty"—it will tend to promote harmony and good-will among the great majority—above all, if whole-heartedly worked it will save us (at any rate for some time) from that "sharp hooked bundle of dry feathers," that compares of unlike kinds, that destroyer of personal influence, Act I of 1913.

Brother Planters, can we not do this? It is easy—it is honest—it is politic—and I think it will be cheap. Still we must face competition—atill our rates will probably go up; but though we may advance more highly and pay more highly, we should be able to feel more secure of our dear-bought labour coming in.

The tendency of all clever and sarcastic minds is towards criticism—Mr. Mead has criticised, in and I appeal to him to now turn his talents to constructiveness. Will he, conjunction with other experienced friends, help the Labour Commission towards fruition and perfection by helpful suggestions? Without the aid of such as he the scheme will work imperfectly, and cause will be given to the scoffer to blaspheme.

Something must be done; here and there conditions may now be favourable, but they cannot remain so. Here is a scheme which, if worked in the right spirit, should be a boon and a blessing; here is an opportunity to "combine" to our own great advantage, moral, mental, and financial, and with distinct eventual advantage to the cooly also. Can we not take advantage of it? Are we to confess ourselves feckless and unprejudiced? and are we to revolve eternally in a vicious circle of appeals to Government for legislation one time and condemnation of all legislation another?

Yours faithfully,

C. DANVERS.

Labour.

Sir, I have read with much interest the letters recently appearing in the *Planters' Chronicle* on this subject. I think it is a good sign that this matter is receiving more attention in your columns and I hope therefore that my crude remarks may pass the censorship.

It seems to me that the first questions to be asked in attempting to solve this problem are: What are the chief difficulties to be met? Is it possible

to overcome these? If not, can anything be done to lessen them or mitigate the evil and, if so, what is the best mode of procedure?

Of course I recognise that there are complications and side issues, but when we are dealing with a complicated case it is usual to try and remove the most serious symptom, or condition, first.

I take it therefore that the answer to the first question may be put somewhat in this shape: "A shortage of labour at rates which make our produce remunerative, or a disorganised state of available labour leading to reduced or vanishing profits."

Let us suppose for a moment that there is sufficient labour available in South India to meet our requirements, the next question appears to be—Can the grower of any particular product afford to pay a higher wage than the growers of other products, or is there any district so favourably situated that it can afford to outbid another? If so, the laws of supply and demand come into play at once and the product, or district, which can afford to pay highest gets its requirements served first; no commission in the world is going to alter this.

That such a state of matters does exist is undoubted, and it is this, added to the varied local conditions in the different recruiting grounds, that has made the situation so complicated, apart from foreign competition.

Mr. Danvers tells us that he is assured Coffee is going to be the first of our products to go to the wall—but even Coffee is not going to the wall without a struggle, and supposing large areas of Coffee are abandoned there are extensions under other products here and in other countries, while industrial concerns are springing up and expanding to absorb any labour released, so the position is not likely to improve even for those stronger branches of the Industry. I think, therefore, it is safe to assume that our difficulties will remain and probably increase.

The product which holds the strongest position to-day may again have its period of depression and, unfortunately, these adjustments as between the Producer and Consumer are generally slower and do not always correspond with a conflict between Capital and Labour which is sharper and its effect more immediately felt. We are dealing with agriculture.

Now, is it possible to completely overcome our difficulties? No—very well—but can nothing be done to put things on a sounder footing? Yes, surely—How? One man says "stop emigration," another "Restrict extensions"—"Do away with advances;" "Have extradition;" "Let the weak go to the wall;" "Raise wages," etc., etc.—Raise wages! Oh yes, we are going to raise wages all right whether we like it or not, but this alone is not going to relieve the pressure for any length of time, it is simply following the law of supply and demand, just as the weak going to the wall is a law of nature.

Mr. Mead lays great emphasis on *Competition*, which he says "is ever present in any business," as a cause of our trouble. True—and what is the result in most cases when competition gets to that stage when it threatens to ruin an industry? A combination of interests is there any combination among planters in this respect? None—therefore, I say the most serious symptom of the case is—lack of combination.

If my argument is sound this can be remedied. But what is the best way of proceeding? Surely by having a Special Labour Department under the U. P. A. S. I. Combine first in establishing this, then consider minor proposals such as Mr. Mead's to have separate district Agencies, or Committees to deal with different products.

To admit that the case is complicated, or that one product or district is in a stronger position than another, is not to say that recruiting and

advancing should not be regulated and protected, and I hold that a central or combined Agency is the best way of doing this. Separate agencies would do little, I believe, to stop interdistrict troubles, nor would a number of minor agencies be able to cope with foreign competition in the same way as a combined department under the U. P. A. S. I.

As to the cost—what is Rs.6 per acre spread over 5 years compared with the capital involved, or for that matter with the advances issued to malistries? The Committee's draft scheme is a very rough one. It was never supposed to be more than a mere indication of a line which might be followed, developed and modified to suit the needs of the case as these become clearer. Mr. Mead's contention that different districts have their own recruiting centres seems to me to strengthen the case for a central commission. Is it not a fact that these centres are now being tapped by other districts, to say nothing of foreign competition?

Mr. Mead appears to be shocked that we should require to protect ourselves from crimping among ourselves. I am very glad to learn that a man of Mr. Mead's experience is able to look at things in that light. I am sorry to say I am obliged to take Mr. Richardson's view, and it is well to remember "how oft the means to do ill deeds makes ill deeds done".

With what Mr. Mead says as regards the manner in which Labour is worked I fully agree. Men generally are not, in my opinion, in such intimate touch with their labour as they used to be, and I find both Labour and Subordinate Staff very unsettled another argument in favour of combination among Owners.

It seems not quite fair to blame wealthy Companies, as Mr. Mead does, for their ignorance with regard to opening land; presumably they are guided by gentlemen on the spot who report for them, and if the seriousness of the Labour question has been minimised it is hardly the fault of the Companies.

Yours faithfully,

GEO. L. DUNCAN.

No. 875 of 1913.

Office of the Planting Expert,
Bangalore,
7th October, 1913.

THE EDITOR,

Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Sectional Meetings.

Sir,—With reference to the excellent suggestion made in the last paragraph of Mr. Mead's letter published in your issue of 27th September, I beg to remind your readers of a similar suggestion which I had the honour to put forward at the Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. in 1911, namely that Sectional Meetings should be held each year in convenient centres to get together men from groups of Districts to discuss special subjects in which they had a common interest.

My views on the subject then expressed will be found in the *Planters' Chronicle*, Vol. VI., Page 549, and the full text of the resolution passed giving effect to those views will be found on page 556. This resolution though carried has evidently been forgotten, a fate which is shared apparently by a large number of the resolutions passed at Annual Meetings of the U. P. A. S. I.

I remain, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,

Planting Expert.

PEST ACT.

The Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1913

This Bill is the outcome of representations made by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce as long ago as 1906. In 1910 the Government of Madras asked for the views of the U. P. A. S. I. upon the subject and it may be remembered that a number of letters from different public bodies together with a note by the Scientific Officer were published in the pages of the *Chronicle* (V p. 497). In November 1911 a special Committee of experts, of whom the Scientific Officer was one, met at Pusa to consider the matter and advise Government as to the form of legislation necessary. In 1912 the Scientific Officer wrote a number of articles in the *Chronicle* dealing in detail with the subject and describing the working of Pest Acts in general (Scientific Officer's Paper CIX) and at last the Government have before them a Bill which gives the power to control the importation into British India of articles likely to cause infection to crops. *In a recent issue the speech made by Sir Edward Maclagan when introducing this Act into the Imperial Council at Simla was published, and we are now able to publish the actual text of the Act which is as follows:—

A Bill to prevent the introduction into British India of any insect, fungus or other pest, which is or may be destructive to crops.

Whereas it is expedient to make provision for preventing the introduction into British India of any insect, fungus or other pest, which is or may be destructive to crops. It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. *Short Title.*—This act may be called The Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1913.

2. *Definitions.*—In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

- (a) "crops" includes all agricultural or horticultural crops, and trees or bushes;
- (b) "import" means the bringing or taking by sea or land; and
- (c) "infection" means infection by any insect, fungus or other pest injurious to a crop.

3. *Power of Governor-General in Council to regulate or prohibit the import of articles likely to infect.*—(1) The Governor-General in Council may, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, prohibit or regulate, subject to such restrictions and conditions as he may impose, the import into British India, or any part thereof, or any specified place therein, of any article or class of articles likely to cause infection to any crop.

(2) A notification under this section may specify any article or class of articles, either generally or in any particular manner, whether with reference to the country of origin, or the route by which imported or otherwise.

4. *Operation of Notification under Section 3.*—A notification under section 3 shall operate as if it had been issued under Section 19 of the Sea Customs Act, 1878, (Act VIII of 1878) and the officers of Customs at every port shall have the same powers in respect of any article with regard to the importation of which such a notification has been issued as they have for the time being in respect of any article the importation of which is regulated, restricted or prohibited by the law relating to Sea Customs and the law for the time being in force relating to Sea Customs or any such article shall apply accordingly

5. *Power of Local Government to make rules.*—(1) The Local Government may, subject to the control of the Governor-General in Council, make rules for the detention, inspection, desinfection or destruction of any article in respect of which a notification has been issued under Section 3 or of any article which may have been in contact or proximity thereto, and for regulating the powers and duties of the officers whom it may appoint in this behalf.

(2) In making any rule under this section the Local Government may direct that a breach thereof shall be punishable with fine, which may extend to one thousand rupees.

6. *Protection to persons acting under Act.*—No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act.

CEYLON RECRUITING AND DAMAGING STORIES AT THE COAST.

From an interesting report by Mr. J. H. Rutherford Lee, which appears in the September number of the *Planting Gazette*, it would seem that the people in these and neighbouring districts know all about Ceylon, and prefer Penang. Stories are told of coolies who have been to Ceylon, and have been swindled, free passages are ridiculed, it being argued that the cooly has to pay for it after all, and that the kangani continually takes it out of him in rice and pay. It was also alleged that the cooly was not allowed to go near the Superintendent, and that, although there were no cases of ill-treatment by the Superintendent, the latter did not care. Such stories are indeed difficult to refute, and there seems every argument provided here in support of the system of the accounts of each individual cooly's indebtedness being kept by the Superintendent. There should be far more communication between the Darai and the cooly. It is stated that the coolies, like the system, vary much on estates where it is now in operation, but that the kangani does not. The moral is obvious; and anything that tends to put an end to these unfortunate stories at the Coast should be welcomed, for unless the cooly in his village has a favourable idea of the place to where he is going the whole Commission might as well be abolished.—*The Ceylon Observer*.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES.

COFFEE (1913 CROP) ON SALE.—H. M. Consul at Batavia (Mr. J. W. Stewart) reports that a sale of Government coffee of the 1913 crop will take place in the rooms of the "Handels-vereniging" at Batavia on 15th October and 26th November next. The quantity to be offered for sale is 13,811 piculs, the unit for sale purposes being the picul of 136 English lbs.

A statement (in English) of the conditions of sale may be seen by United Kingdom firms at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E. C.—*The Board of Trade Journal*.

The French Consul at Rio is said to have reported on the excess cost of living in Rio as compared to Paris as being equal to 3'5 to 1, so that an employee earning fr. 495 a month in Rio can scarcely live as one who earns fr. 200 in Paris, and certainly cannot save on such pay.—*Tropical Life*.

How to take Samples and send Specimens for Examination.*Soils.*

To obtain a fair average sample of the soil in a field for analysis, as nearly as possible equal quantities of soil are taken from not less than four different parts of it. At the places chosen for taking samples the surface is lightly scraped, to remove leaves mulch, &c., a vertical hole 18 inches square is then dug to a depth of 2 feet, like a port hole. With a sharp spade a slice of soil to a depth of one foot is cut off one side of the hole and placed on a clean bag. Big stones and big roots should be removed, but not small stones, the size of a pea, or fine roots.

The process is repeated at the other places selected, and all the samples are then thoroughly mixed, big lumps being broken up. After well mixing about 10 lbs. is placed in a clean canvas bag, which is securely tied up. Such samples should be forwarded in a clean wooden box.

It is important that bags and boxes should be clean.

Care must be taken about the labels. Each sample should be labelled and a duplicate label put inside the bag. Full information should be sent about each sample, stating elevation, rainfall, depth of soil, nature of sub-soil, surrounding rocks and country, whether and is on a level or slope near a river, &c., and the history of the previous manurial treatment of the soil.

The same rules apply to taking samples of a sub-soil.

Plant Diseases.

These should be packed so that, if possible, they will arrive in the same condition in which they were collected, and they *must not be externally wet* when they are put up. In some cases the specimens may be dried between sheets of blotting paper under light pressure before they are packed.

Specimens which decay rapidly may be sent in a solution of Formalin, 1 part in 20 of water.

Insects.

If live insects are sent, some of their food plant, which should be dry, should be enclosed with them, and also a little crushed paper. Insects found in soil, wood, &c., should be sent in these materials.

Tin boxes should be used for packing, and holes should not be bored in them, or if they are, only one or two and these quite small.

Insects should usually be sent dead. They may be killed in a cyanide bottle, or enclosed under a tumbler with a small piece of blotting paper soaked in benzene. They should be *quite dry* when packed, and are best buried in dry sawdust with a little powdered naphthalene.

Small insects should be packed with finely shredded paper. *Cotton wool should never be used.*

Butterflies and moths should be enclosed in papers folded into triangular-shaped packets which are packed in a box with crushed paper to prevent shaking.

Scale insects should be packed *quite dry*, each specimen attached to its food plant simply wrapped in soft tissue paper.

General.

In all cases more than one specimen of each kind should be sent, if possible 4 or 5.

Every specimen should be clearly labelled so that there can be no possible mistake. The label should bear a number referring to a description in the covering letter.

Full particulars about all specimens sent must be recorded.

All specimens should be sent to

THE SECRETARY,

The United Planters' Association of Southern India,

BANGALORE,

to ensure their being promptly attended to upon arrival.